

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1428

By Johnson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Vietnam War veterans of the Tennessee Military Collectors Association.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the United States have, throughout the years, been called upon to take up arms against the enemies of this great nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all Americans and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

WHEREAS, the brave service of our soldiers during the Vietnam War continued this time-honored tradition of Tennessee volunteerism, as fourteen members of the Tennessee Military Collectors Association answered the nation's call to service to defend democracy and defeat communism in a place far from home; such individuals include Donald G. (Greg) Hester, Private E-2 Robert Dunlap, Specialist 5th Class Ted D. Wylie, Lieutenant Colonel Berry O'Shields, Jr., Petty Officer 2nd Class Peter Polizzi, 1st Lieutenant Gene D. Andrews, CM1 Robert Elrod, Airman 1st Class Joe R. DeBruce, Captain Michael Lavin, Private 1st Class Willie M. Gentry, 1st Lieutenant Keith Durkee, Staff Sergeant John Stryker "Tilt" Meyer, Specialist 4th Class George Petersen, and Sergeant Roy Chilson; and

WHEREAS, in the decades since the Vietnam War, these gentlemen have continued to demonstrate honor, hard and honest work, love of family and community, and the true courage it takes to lead such a life through their deeds and actions; and

WHEREAS, too many times, the brave men and women who served in Vietnam have not been accorded the respect and gratitude they deserve for their courageous actions that ultimately helped shape the history of our great country; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to recognize these veterans of the Vietnam War who served with such dignity, aplomb, and grace; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the Vietnam War veterans of the Tennessee Military Collectors Association, thank them for their service to this great nation, and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.